

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for supporting an electrified wire while resisting electrical shorts caused by an animal in contact with the electrified wire, comprising:

a support for supporting the electrified wire;

dielectric material distributed on the structure at a location proximate to the electrified wire, wherein said dielectric material has sufficient dielectric strength to resist electrical short circuits in contact with said dielectric material and the electrified wire.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in claim 16, further comprising dielectric material engaged with the electrified wire at a location proximate to said support.

18. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in Claim 16, wherein said dielectric material is sprayable.

19. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in Claim 16, wherein said dielectric material is resistant to sunlight induced deterioration.

20. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as recited in Claim 16, wherein said dielectric material is resistant to deterioration induced by thermal variations.

21. (Currently Amended) In a high voltage power transmission installation comprising an electrified high voltage powerline, a method for limiting current flow between the electrified high voltage powerline and an adjacent conductor of electricity in the event of creation of a short circuit between the electrified high voltage powerline and the conductor of electricity, the method comprising:

- (a) selecting a portion of the high voltage power transmission installation having a configuration which renders the portion of the high voltage power transmission

installation susceptible to creation of the short circuit at a location of the portion of the high voltage power transmission installation;

- (b) determining a desired electric insulating capability such that creation of the short circuit will result in an amount of current flow between the electrified high voltage powerline and the conductor of electricity which is below a predetermined limit in the amount of current flow;
- (c) selecting a dielectric material having a suitable insulating strength for providing the desired electric insulating capability, wherein the dielectric material is selected to have a suitable insulating strength in a liquid form as it is applied to the electrified high voltage powerline to allow for its safe application; and
- (d) while the electrified high voltage powerline is electrified, applying in the liquid form a thickness of the selected dielectric material to at least one of the electrified high voltage powerline and the conductor of electricity which is sufficient to provide the desired electric insulating capability.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the applying step is comprised of applying the selected dielectric material to the electrified high voltage powerline.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the conductor of electricity is comprised of a support structure for supporting the electrified high voltage powerline and wherein the applying step is comprised of applying the selected dielectric material to the support structure.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein the applying step is comprised of applying the selected dielectric material both to the electrified high voltage powerline and to the support structure.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the conductor of electricity is comprised of an electrical wire and wherein the applying step is comprised of applying the selected dielectric material to the electrical wire.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 25 wherein the applying step is comprised of applying the selected dielectric material both to the electrified high voltage powerline and to the electrical wire.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the electric insulating capability determining step is comprised of evaluating the voltage potential between the electrified high voltage powerline and the conductor of electricity.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the electric insulating capability determining step is comprised of evaluating the types of bird and animal contact with the electrified high voltage powerline and the conductor of electricity which may result in creation of the short circuit.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the electric insulating capability determining step is comprised of determining the predetermined limit in the amount of current flow having regard to an amount of current flow which is life threatening to the types of birds and animals which may contact the electrified high voltage powerline and the conductor of electricity.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 21, further comprising the step of selecting an appropriate application technique for performing the applying step.

32. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 21 wherein the selected dielectric material is comprised of a plurality of dielectric material components, and wherein the method is further comprised of mixing the plurality of dielectric material components together before the applying step.

33. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 21 wherein the selected dielectric material is formulated from a plurality of ~~solid~~ liquid dielectric material components.

34. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 21 wherein the applying step is comprised of applying the selected dielectric material using a dielectric material application device, wherein the dielectric material application device is comprised of a dielectric material supply apparatus adapted to engage a ground surface, a dielectric material supply conduit having a first end connected with the dielectric material supply apparatus, and a dielectric material applicator connected with a second end of the dielectric material supply conduit.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 34 wherein the dielectric material supply conduit has a length which is sufficient such that the dielectric material supply apparatus may engage the ground surface while the applying step is performed.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the dielectric material application device is portable.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 34, further comprising the step of selecting an appropriate dielectric material applicator.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the electrified high voltage powerline is uninsulated prior to performance of the method.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the conductor of electricity is uninsulated prior to performance of the method.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 21 wherein the selected dielectric material is comprised of a plurality of dielectric material components and wherein the step of selecting the dielectric material is comprised of selecting each of the dielectric material components so that each of the dielectric material components will provide the suitable insulating strength and so that each of the dielectric material components will provide a further suitable insulating strength in the liquid form as it is applied to the electrified high voltage powerline to allow for its safe application.